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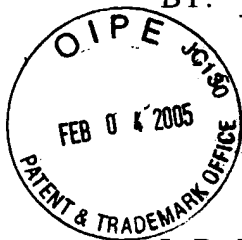
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW.

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MAIL STOP AMENDMENT



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In Re Patent Application of:  
Hidetomo NAGAHARA, et al.

Conf. No.: 7402

: Group Art Unit: 2834

Appln. No.: 10/620,083

: Examiner: Thomas M. Dougherty

Filing Date: July 15, 2003

: Attorney Docket No.: 10407-55US  
(A3051MT-US1)

Title: Composite Piezoelectric Transducer and Method of Fabricating the Same

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 4, 2005 (Paper No. 1204) in the above-identified patent application. This response is being timely filed by February 4, 2005.

The Examiner has required restriction among claims 1 through 16, which are directed to a piezoelectric transducer (Group I); claim 17, which is directed to differently shaped piezoelectric elements (Group II); claim 18, which is directed to a layered piezoelectric device (Group III); claims 19 - 21, which are drawn to a layered piezoelectric device made by a specific method (Group IV); claims 22 - 24, which are directed to an ultrasonic probe (Group V); and claims 25 - 29, which are directed to a method of making a piezoelectric device (Group VI). The Examiner contends that the inventions are distinct because the inventions of Group I and Groups II and III are unrelated because the invention of the first group is a transducer and the other groups give no such indication. The Examiner further contends that the inventions are distinct because the inventions of Groups I through IV and Groups V through VI are unrelated because the first group is a transducer and the other groups give no such indication and that the inventions are not disclosed as being capable of being used together. The Examiner also contends that the

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inventions are distinct because the inventions of Group V and Group VI are unrelated because the invention of the first group is a transducer, the other group gives no indication and that the inventions are not disclosed as being capable of being used together.

**Provisional Election**

While not necessarily agreeing with the Restriction or the Examiner's contentions in support thereof, applicants provisionally elect Group I (claims 1 through 16) without traverse.

The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 15, 2003.

An early examination and allowance of the application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

**Hidetomo NAGAHARA, et al.**

February 2, 2005  
(Date)

By:

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